

INDEPENDENT COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE INTERIOR SECRETARY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the announcement was made that an independent counsel will be appointed to investigate Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt. To this I say: It is about time.

Mr. Speaker, let us review what has happened here. When asked to explain why he denied a particular Indian gaming license, Secretary Babbitt responded that the administration instructed him to do so. Next, he denied ever having said that. Then he denied ever having made that denial. Finally, he has admitted that his original lie is the truth and that we just all have a big misunderstanding.

Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is a misunderstanding, but somewhere between all the lies, all the denials, and all the misunderstandings, a \$300,000 campaign donation was made to the Democratic Party in exchange for governmental action against the non-contributing Indian tribe.

Hopefully, the independent counsel will be able to sift through the lies and find the truth. Clearly, the American people deserve no less.

□ 1030

CASEY MARTIN

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Casey Martin is a 25-year-old young man who lives in America, the land of opportunity. He suffers from K-T-W syndrome which is a circulatory disorder in his right leg which causes great pain when he walks significant distances. Notwithstanding that, he had the courage to become a second team all-American on the Stanford golf team. The Professional Golfers Association said that the ADA did not apply to Casey Martin and it was not designed or intended to apply to competitors in professional sporting events.

The judge felt differently and sustained what I think we in this body felt, that somebody with a disability ought to be given a reasonable accommodation to participate as fully as their courage and commitment would allow.

Gary Phelan, a disability expert, was quoted as saying that the ADA was about opportunity, not pity. Casey Martin was the victim of fate, but he was not defeated by that disability. He has competed and prevailed. It was a great day for America yesterday when he was allowed to compete fully to the extent of his ability.

PARENTAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the Parental Freedom of Information Act along with 48 other cosponsors. It is an act which will empower parents to guide and participate in the education of their children.

Teachers have told me that involved parents are the most important thing public schools need to help students learn. I believe involved parents must be informed parents.

The Parental Freedom of Information Act will ensure that parents have access to curriculum and testing materials to which their children are exposed and will require parental consent prior to any student being required to undergo medical or psychological testing or treatment while at school. Again, that is, before any mandatory medical exams or treatment or mandatory psychological testing, parents must be notified for their consent.

This legislation in no way seeks to influence the content or curriculum of tests. It simply allows parents to access the basic information which involved parents need to guide the education of their children.

Most of us agree that when parents get involved in their child's education, their children do better in school and their schools become stronger. This legislation will help remove the obstacles that prevent parents from being involved. So let us get behind the Parental Freedom of Information Act.

ON MEXICO

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a CIA report says Mexico's powerful Interior Minister is dirty. He is tied to drug cartels and he turned a blind eye to drug trafficking. A blind eye to 7 tons of narcotics crossing the border every single day, 14,000 pounds?

After all this, the White House is officially certifying Mexico as a cooperating partner in our war on drugs. Unbelievable. Some war on drugs. The Interior Minister is dirty.

Their last drug czar was on the cartel's payroll, and 14,000 pounds a day are poisoning America. Beam me up. Evidently there is not as much testosterone at the White House as there is rumored to be. I say, let us secure our borders with the military who are falling out of chairs without armrests overseas.

Let us straighten out our country, Congress. And let us declare war on narcotics.

LOCAL RADIO

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, many of us take our local radio and TV stations for granted. Whenever we want to see the news, the weather, our favorite show, we can simply turn on our televisions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. But there is another commitment our local broadcasters make, a commitment to our communities.

I am pleased today to commend the good work being done by stations in eastern North Carolina. Radio and television stations alike in the area run thousands of public service announcements each year covering every topic from alcohol abuse to senior issues. In addition, many eastern North Carolina stations play an active role in worthy causes such as raising funds for children's hospitals, collecting contributions to the Toys for Tots program and gathering pledges for local food banks. Whether it is helping the needy, protecting us with storm information or covering the local news, local broadcasters have built a great legacy of public service.

I come to the floor today to salute the fine work of broadcasters in eastern North Carolina and throughout the Nation, and to let them know that their efforts are appreciated.

PUERTO RICO

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, three days from today, 100 years ago, the USS Maine exploded in Havana, an incident that started the Spanish American War, a war that Americans proudly entered to free Cuba from Spanish rule, a war that also liberated Puerto Rico from Spanish rule, but turned Puerto Rico into a U.S. territory.

We have now been a territory of the United States for 100 years and we have been disenfranchised U.S. citizens for 81 years. Can any Member of Congress give us one good reason why 3,800,000 American citizens should be denied the right to vote and the right to representation? Puerto Ricans are part of the great American family, but a century has passed us by and we remain disenfranchised as a colony at a time when colonies are not only unfashionable but embarrassing to a Nation that preaches democracy throughout the world and calls for a plebiscite in Cuba. Congress has procrastinated on the solution to our political dilemma for too long.

Congress has the authority and the moral responsibility to approve H.R. 856, the U.S.-Puerto Rico Political Status Act, a bill for self-determination, a bill to pave the road to enfranchisement and equality.